Chapter 12
CRISIS INTERVENTION
GENERAL INFORMATION

A crisis can be defined as a stressful situation that disrupts a person's ability to cope. A traumatic experience, or repeated traumatic events, such as a beating, sexual assault or marital rape places the woman in a stressful state that is intensified by the realization that she is not able to deal with the problem through her usual means.

Crisis Intervention involves an outside party, such as a crisis counselor/advocate, who actively intervenes in the individual's situation. A sexual assault/domestic violence counselor/advocate, acts as a resource for the woman, offers emotional support, and discusses (potentially unexplored) options for coping with the crisis state. Although the immediate experience will be likely unpleasant or painful, the possibility for empowerment of the woman exists, the counselor/advocate can help the woman draw upon her strengths and resources to resolve the crisis positively and possibly reorganize her own life.

Feelings Produced by Crisis:

- ***Anxiety*** This is an appropriate response that can mobilize a person for action; however, great anxiety produces confusion, poor judgment, questionable decisions, and self-defeating behavior. This is the time when the best help is information and an ability to listen.
- ***Helplessness:*** Helping a person through some action can be extremely helpful.
- ***Shame:*** Mainly due to feelings of incompetence and need to depend on others.
- ***Anger:*** Often hidden behind other expressions or feelings, and they may be directed at another person, such as a volunteer, or turned inward, producing depression.
- ***Ambivalence:*** Caused by the need to retain control while there is a loss of control. Reaching out for help while trying to manage by one self produces a decrease in self-esteem and leaves the individual extremely vulnerable.
- ***Guilt:*** Makes her feel responsible in some way for what happened. Help her to be open about her guilt feelings. This must be worked through carefully. All aspects of her guilt should be worked through. She should not, however,

under any circumstances, feel she deserved to be beaten or sexually assaulted. This guilt into appropriate anger that a crime has been committed against her.

- ***Suspicion***: Causes the victim to become distrustful of those around her. She believes that they think she was responsible. Offer trust and support her. Help her to clarify her reasons for her feelings, and assist her in working them through.

A crisis is a profound disruption of a person's life cycle and methods of coping. It is usually limited in time and is accompanied by feelings of fear, shock, and distress. Sexual assault is an example of a situational crisis, one that results in loss (i.e. loss of trust, loss of self-esteem, loss of innocence, loss of feelings of safety, loss of independence and control, or loss of support from others). In rape crisis, fears that may have been hidden are now on the surface (i.e. nightmares, fear of going out). All of these fears bring an uncertainty, discomfort, and the feelings listed previously.

When feelings are confused, behavior resulting from these feelings may also be confused. This may occur when the woman calls the hotline, she may act angry or demanding. These are often defenses against the feelings of anxiety and helplessness. She may also be trying to gain or regain a sense of control. When dealing with an individual in a crisis state, the counselor/advocate should listen carefully to what the woman has to say. It is important that she can speak freely and openly. She will be more open if she is not being hurried. The counselor/advocate should speak in a concerned, calm manner and reassure the victim. The counselor/advocate needs to be calm, patient, interested, hopeful and knowledgeable. This will convey to the woman both an ability and willingness to help.

After the individual has calmed down, the next step is to explore the problem. The counselor/advocate and the woman will need to explore together the different alternatives for solving the problem that caused the crisis. They also need to determine the most effective action to take based on the seriousness and urgency of the problem.

Objectives of Crisis Counseling:

- Development of a rapport between the woman and counselor/advocate. The woman needs to believe you are honest and genuinely interested in helping her.
- Assessment of the problem, including identification and clarification of the situation.

- Awareness and respect for the woman's responsibility to herself and for the decisions she makes.
- Stress the woman's strengths.
- To be accepting, objective and nonjudgmental toward the woman.
- To assist the woman with putting things into perspective, helping her to focus on her needs, increasing her awareness of alternatives and resources (including her own emotional strength).
- Listening carefully to what the woman has to say, allowing her to tell her story her own way, and ventilating her feelings.
- Reassurance; offer the woman emotional support, along with assistance and guidance.
- Provide pertinent information to the woman regarding her problem.
- Referrals to appropriate community resources that will best serve the woman's needs.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Battered Women with a History of Mental Health Problems

When mental health practitioners encounter women with acute mental distress, such as suicide attempts, memory blackouts, long-term depression, inability to cope with day- to - day activities, or psychosis, they frequently assume that these problems are a result of internal, psychic imbalances.

Consequently, attention is paid to relieving symptoms; drugs are prescribed or institutionalization recommended. The acuteness of the symptoms may distract the practitioners inquiring about the social reality that is causing or contribution to the distress. For this reason, it is essential that practitioners ask routine questions about domestic violence during all intakes, even those that seem to fall into the category of psychiatric cases.

Women with a history of emotional illness may find it difficult:

1. **Validate their claims of abuse**

   A mental patient's reality is often seen as make-believe or delusional. Her fears may be dismissed as exaggerations or excessive paranoia. Because her self-esteem is usually very low, and hint of disbelief from the practitioner may cause her to doubt her experience.

   The mental health practitioner must take her story seriously even if she appears to be incoherent. The interventions described above for

validating women's experiences are necessary here. Let the women know that you believe her and give her the time and the patience she may need to discuss the abuse.

Memory blocks are common coping mechanisms for women who have endured repeated violence. If the practitioner suspects battering, she should arrange ongoing counseling. It is possible that over time the woman may find the confidence and trust to regain her history. During this period, the practitioner should pay close attention to unexplained physical injuries.

2. **Leave their battering situation**.

The abuser may use the woman's psychiatric history to blackmail her into staying with him. He may threaten her with institutionalization or, if they have children, with a custody battle. Appearing self-possessed and in control, the abuser may be able to influence societal institutions to side with him. A mental health practitioner needs to be a strong advocate for the battered woman in this situation.

The woman may be very dependent on her abuser for shelter and economic support and may feel incapable of surviving on her own. Mental health practitioner should investigate realistic housing and income opportunities for her and inform her of these options.

3. **Find outside support during the transition.**

Many battered women's shelters provide housing for 8 to 12 weeks in order to give residents a chance to find a safe living situation. For a woman whose battering results in, or is compounded by, additional emotional problems, this time frame is usually too short. She needs a safe and supportive environment for much longer.

--By Hayat Iman of the Elizabeth Stone House

In Massachusetts, the Elizabeth Stone House is such an alternative-a shelter for battered women with emotional problems. The Elizabeth Stone House (P.O. Box 15, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130) is compiling a handbook on how to set up peer-support mental health facilities and can be used as a resource by advocates who are interested in establishing halfway houses for mentally distressed women with additional emotional problems.

Intervention Methods to Avoid

The following practices are inappropriate and dangerous for battered women. Mental health practitioners are urged to avoid them.

Couples Therapy

A battered woman should not be asked to discuss the relationship or the violence in the presence of her assailant. Couples therapy is an inappropriate intervention that further endangers the woman. It encourages the abuser to blame the victim by examining her "role" in his problem. By seeing the couple together, the therapist erroneously suggests that the partner, too, is responsible for the abuser's behavior.

Many women have been beaten brutally following couples counseling sessions in which they disclosed violence or coercion. The abuser alone must take responsibility for the assaults and understand that the family reunification is not his treatment goal; the goal is to stop the violence.

Marriage counseling is indicated only when violence and coercive tactics cease (minimally, many months or years after the abuser begins treatment) and both parties request this form of help.

Court Mediation

Mediation assumes that two equal parties can negotiate in good faith with each other and solve problems. Assailants, however, manipulate, intimidate and bully their partners. They cannot negotiate responsibly, and mediation, therefore, is an inappropriate intervention to recommend. Because of the abuser's coercive tactics, battered women should be encouraged to seek legal assistance before they discuss divorce, child custody, visitation and other issues with their partners.

Programs for Batterers without Supports for Battered Women

Because treatment may cause the assailant's violence to escalate, no programs for batterers should begin until battered women have access to adequate shelter and advocacy.

In the absence of a coordinated response among agencies in the community (shelters, mental health, criminal justice), services for batterers are dangerous. Even with these coordinated efforts, we have no conclusive evidence that indicates that, overtime, counseling for batterers is an effective deterrent to violence.

Anger Management Groups for Abusers Without Other Interventions

Many agencies now offer anger control groups for batterers. These groups frequently fail to confront the underlying problem--the batterer feels entitled to "lose control," to chastise and punish his partner. He feels the right to work himself into a rage when his partner disobeys him, asserts herself, disagrees with his wishes or fails to perform her "wifely duties." Anger management alone is an ill-fated intervention unless it also challenges the batterer's need to control his partner and his right to use violence against her.

LONG TERM OPTIONS - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Separation.

The woman may separate from the batterer, either temporarily or permanently. Many women do not understand that a separation is not legal procedure, and may be temporary. In Pennsylvania, separation is simply living apart. A separation serves two purposes: it provides a better bargaining position and it provides time away from the situation in which to decide what to do. Areas of conflict such as custody, visitation, and division of property should be resolved as soon as possible.

Financial Security.

In Pennsylvania, property and money acquired are considered to belong to both parties. If a home is owned in both names, neither can sell it without the other's permission. The woman needs to assess what she owns individually, what she owns jointly with her husband, what he owns individually, and the plan to divide everything to ensure that her needs are realistically met. If they have joint account, she should take half of the money and put it in an account under her name. Joint debts are the responsibility of both spouses. If one spouse refuses to pay. The spouse with property to lose will have to handle it. If one spouse still has access to the other's charge plates, that person can use those plates. But this should be avoided whenever possible since a creditor may still try to get money from the non-working spouse if the wage earner refuses to pay. In long-range planning, the victim needs to think about how she will support herself.

Public Assistance.

If the woman has little or no money, she will probably qualify for public assistance. If the partners own property, a lien will be placed against it. If the

abuser can support the woman, public assistance will require her to take him to court for support, but, in the meantime, she is entitled to public assistance once they are living apart. She can get nothing as long as they are living together.

In addition to cash assistance other benefits are available, such as food stamps and medical assistance. If she has too much income to get assistance, she may still be eligible for food stamps and medical assistance. It is worth finding out.

Domestic Relations Court.

The primary wage earner owes the family support-money for food, shelter, medical care, etc. This duty is enforceable through Domestic relations Court. When the family is together under one roof and the primary wage earner is providing no money for support, the spouse may seek to have the court order him to pay a proper amount, based on the income of the wage earner and the needs of the family. However, if the wage earner is contributing any money for support, it is likely that the courts will not interfere. The court's justification is that it does not wish to become deeply involved in a family financial situation.

If the wage earner lives apart from his family, the other spouse may seek support through the courts. In deciding the amount of support, the court will look at the income and resources of the wage earner, his fixed expenses and the family standard of living. If a wage earner is apparently making less that he could earn, and no good reason is given for this reduced income level, the court can set an order for support based on the person's higher income potential.

In Pennsylvania, a spouse is entitled to support for herself only as long as the marriage remains intact. Provisions for alimony payments must be included in the divorce agreement. However, the duty of parents to support their children is not affected in any way by a divorce, nor is it affected by remarriage.

The rule used to be that a wife could get support from her husband once she established he had a duty to support her. The court did not have to look at any income or resources of the wife. This has changed. Where a wife is seeking support from her husband, the court will ask if the wife could work. If the court feels that she could, then it may order only a small amount, if any at all. Also, unemployed husbands can seek support from working wives. The terms of individual agreements depend upon the court hearing the case.

Parents have a duty to support their natural and adopted children until the children finish school, are working full time, enter military service, get married, or turn 18. A stepparent has no duty to support stepchildren.

As in spousal support, the courts will consider the income and assets of both spouses and order contributions between them towards the support of the children. The support money will normally be paid to the spouse who has the primary care of the children. Because taking care of the children imposes a real burden on that

spouse, the court will consider the value of such care-taking services. In order to obtain support, the spouse needing it (usually the woman) should go to Domestic Relations Court as soon as possible after the separation. Even if the other spouse is supporting the woman voluntarily, it is a good idea to take their agreement to Court, so that the money does not have to be transferred directly, and so that the Court can enforce the agreement if the money stops. The husband can petition to have the order reduced when there has been a change in circumstances, resulting in his inability to meet the order.

Housing.

The battered woman will need to think about out permanent housing. If she will have custody of the children, it is worth her trying to get the house. It is easier for a single person to relocate than a woman with children.

If a husband and wife own a home together, or rent an apartment in both names, neither of them can force the other to leave except in some cases of physical abuse. (See Protection From Abuse Act). Both will have an equal right to remain on the property. That means that if she cannot live with her spouse, and he won't leave, she will have to leave herself. If she is going to move, she needs to consider how she can get the money for a security deposit, and what her needs are--how many rooms, location, school district, and amount of rent she can afford to pay.

Personal Possessions.

If the woman is planning on leaving but as yet cannot, advise her to take, at the time of departure, whatever personal belongings she and the children will need. There may be no going back.

Technically, there is redress in Magistrate's Court for personal property withheld, but there are problems of proof. If both names are on the deed or on the lease, the woman has a legal right to enter. If violence is feared, the police may accompany the woman; if she is not concerned about that, she can simply walk in and take what she needs, and has a right to take it. If locks have been changed, she has the right to break and enter.

Attorney.

She needs as much information as possible about rights in separation and divorce. There are some free sources of legal information, but if the situation is at all complicated, the woman should consult an attorney. Volunteers are not lawyers, nor are they qualified to give legal advice. Legal Services provide legal help to those whose income falls within certain guidelines. Otherwise, the Women's Center will provide the names of private lawyers.

Children.

Basically, the battered woman has three choices regarding children: she can take them with her; leave them with him; or find another place for them. Most women, for their own peace of mind, will want their children with them. Some women do not want to disrupt their children's schooling or move them around too much, and are willing to leave them with the fathers if they are sure that the father will not abuse them. I f the woman decides to do this she should be cautioned that regaining custody of the children may be more difficult than she anticipates. Sometimes a relative or friend may be more difficult than she anticipates. Sometimes a relative or friend will take the children temporarily, but if the husband finds them, he can take them back. Until a formal custody order is granted both parents have equal rights to the children.

Special Problems.

The volunteer should always find out if the woman or her children have special problems or need specialized types of support. If she has a chronic disease, or has ever had problems with drugs, alcohol, or mental illness, she may need to be in touch with a doctor, therapist or special support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, because she will be going through a very trying time in separating.

Divorce.

A divorce may be the alternative sought by a woman if she has come to the realization that her partner refuses to change his violent behavior. A Divorce Reform Act was passed in July of 1980. Under this law, no-fault divorces were instituted. Consult with an attorney.

Annulment.

A marriage can be annulled in Pennsylvania if it has been invalid from the beginning. Annulment means that the principal marriage contract was null and void and that, in effect, no marriage took place. Grounds for annulment include: bigamy, insanity or drunkenness at the time of the marriage ceremony, and marriage between Pennsylvania law provides that the children of an annulled co-respondents in an annulled marriage are legitimate.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In any cases, women are afraid to leave a batterer because they feel they have no means of support. If they have no young children, they may want to find a job. If no job is available, or they must stay at home with the children, they may apply for Public Assistance. Public Assistance is not a charity; it is the legal right of anyone who meets the eligibility criteria. Public Assistance provides income, medical care, food stamps and social services to those in financial need.

Eligibility Requirements:

Any person or family whose available resources are less than the amount set by the Department of Public Assistance. There are three categories:

- ✓ TANF- (Formerly known as AFDC - Aid to Families with Dependent Children.) Family must be needy and have a child under 18 or 21 if going to school), and one or both of the parents either deceased, left the home, or unemployed or underemployed.
- ✓ SSI - Supplemental Security Income. Must be 65 years or older, or, if younger, blind, disabled or unable to work but not eligible for Social Security, Apply at Social Security office, East Seventh and Iron Streets, Bloomsburg, 784-6223.
- ✓ GA - General Assistance. Must be needy, but not eligible for AFDC or SSI.

If the woman is eligible and wishes to apply, she should contact the local office to make an appointment: East Seventh and Center Streets, 389-3516. The woman should have the following when applying:

1. Proof of residence--landlord statement of residence. For a woman staying at the shelter this would be a letter from the Center saying she is staying there. This is to verify a Columbia County address.
2. Proof of age of all family members--for her that could be a driver's license or birth certificate. For children it could be either a birth certificate, doctor's immunization card with the child's birth date included, school records or hospital record.
3. Social Security Card or Number-if the woman doesn't have this she will need to go to the Social Security office to apply. It may hold up her check.
4. If employed, recent pay stubs. They should include on them the name of the company.
5. If receiving support, documentation.

Remember--in order to receive Public Assistance, the applicant must be needy and have a limited amount of available resources:

1) Not more than $50 on hand or in a savings or checking account may disqualify the woman for immediate Public Assistance.

2) Any insurance policy worth more than $500 may also disqualify a person. During the screening procedure, the intake worker will determine eligibility. He or she will make an appointment for the woman (usually the next day) to finalize the procedure and the woman will receive a check within the next few days. If a woman is not staying at the shelter but has no money she may be able to get a check the same day if she goes in, in the morning for screening.

Applying for SSI:

SSI is a form of assistance granted to either elderly or disabled persons who are unable to work, and who are not eligible for Social Security. When applying for SSI, the woman contacts the Social Security office and schedules an appointment. If found to be eligible, benefits will be retroactive to the day of application.

The woman will need to have with her:
1. Birth certificate
2. Proof of citizenship
3. Record of current balances in the bank, checking and saving
4. Life insurance policies
5. Pay stubs (if employed), record of pension, Social Security, etc.

The woman may also apply for Public Assistance for which she may be eligible until the start of SSI benefits.

Food Stamps:

The Food Stamp program is a program which makes it possible for a family with low income to increase its purchasing power. Food stamps can be used to purchase only things that go in your mouth. I n determining eligibility for food stamps for a family not receiving public assistance, the family must have limited income and resources.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

Other counseling issues related to domestic violence that0 we need some basic information about are mental health and mental retardation. Mental health issues are part of our work because sometimes the emotional crisis, like the abuse of alcohol or drugs, is the result of the violence a woman has suffered. These issues come up in various degrees: any woman may face a temporary emotional crisis, some severe, some not. While you probably won't be dealing with mental health issues in their more serious aspects often, it is important to have some information and skills to be able to deal with them sensitively as they come up. Likewise, we must be sensitive to any needs that a battered woman who is mentally retarded might have.

With respect to both emotional crises and mental retardation, it is also important to us to be aware of any "ablest" attitudes that we may have, as discussed in an earlier section of the manual. Finally, we must be prepared to advocate for battered women who receive treatment or services from the mental health or mental retardation systems, so that their abusive situations are adequately and realistically (rather than "mythically") considered by the professionals who are working with them. An excellent resource for battered women's advocates as well as for mental health professionals is Guidelines for Mental Health Practioners in Domestic Violence Cases, by Susan Schechter for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1987

If you are unsure as to how to deal with a woman, i.e. if she is exhibiting behavior that seems especially extreme or dangerous, if she appears to be delusional or under mind/mood altering medication, etc., it may be helpful to call a Women's Center staff person for advice. Women with clear mental health problems can also be referred to MH/MR (Mental Health/Mental Retardation), whose staff is better trained to deal with problems in this area.

AGING

If you are dealing with a victim who is 60 years old or more, the Area Agency on Aging can also be an important resource. The Aging office offers support and care services that are specific to the elderly and that can counter many of the obstacles faced by this population. Laws protecting the aging are stronger than those for the general public. Consequently, the Area Agency on Aging can often do more for older women than we can.

What is TANF?

TANF - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Program which was created by the Welfare Reform Law of 1996. TANF became effective July 1, 1997, and replaced what was then commonly known as welfare: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) programs. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs.

- **Individuals** can only get TANF for 60 months or 5 years in their life time. After that they cannot get welfare for themselver or their children.
- **Any months** spend on welfare after March 3, 1997 count towards the 60 months or 5 year limit. Time spent on welfare before March 3, 1997 does not count.
- **The 5 year limit** applies to all adults and heads of household. A head of household is anyone who signs a welfare application to collect welfare for herself and a child.
- **The 5 year limit** does not apply to "child only" welfare cases. For example, if a grandmother is getting a welfare check for her two grandchildren, but not for herself, the children's welfare will not end after 5 years.
- **Not every adult** can collect "child only" welfare. If they are the natural or adoptive parent of a child, they must be on the welfare grant with the child.
- **The time** their children spend on welfare does not count for their 5 year lifetime limit as an adult. For example, a young person who spent time on welfare as a child can still get 5 years of welfare as an adult.

- If the child's father is paying support, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) may send them part of that money for child support, separately from their welfare check. This is the Child Support Pass-Through.

What about child support?

- To get a monthly welfare check, candidates must help local authorities get child support from the child's father unless there is good reason for not wanting to name the father. For example, a good reason would be if giving his name would put the candidate or their child in danger.
- If candidates do not have a good reason and they do not help local authorities get child support from the child's father, they will lose at least 25% of their welfare check.
- If the child's father is paying support, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) may send them part of that money for child support, separately from the candidates welfare check. This is the Child Support Pass-Through.

What if I am a survivor or victim of domestic violence?

Victims are not required to report domestic violence. They may, however, want to talk to their caseworker about this. It is possible that they may be excused from some of the welfare rules if those rules put victims or their children in danger of domestic violence.

Child Youth Services

Your County Children & Youth Services Office

The Child Welfare system in Pennsylvania is a state mandated, county operated system. This means that, while the state legislature passes the laws and the state Department of Public Welfare issues policies and regulations, each county has some discretion in exactly how it provides the services to their citizens. To help the County Commissioners make those determinations, they set up an office of Children and Youth Services, appoint an administrator and appoint a citizen's advisory board that is representative of the county.

Typically, the agency administrator reports directly to the Board of Commissioners, although increasingly, Commissioners are appointing a Human Services Director to oversee children and youth services and the other categorical county social service programs (mental health, mental retardation, drug and alcohol, county nursing homes). The county children and youth administrator also has a responsibility to the Judicial System and acts as an arm of the court in juvenile dependency (child neglect and abuse) and some delinquency areas. And, the administrator also must ensure that the operations of the agency are in substantial compliance with all applicable state regulations in order to maintain a state license to operate.

The responsibilities of the County Children & Youth Agency (CCYA) include:

- Providing services to families to help to prevent and/or resolve the problems of child abuse, dependency and neglect;
- Consistent with a child's safety, making all reasonable efforts to avoid out of home placement of the child;
- If the Juvenile Court places a child outside of the home, to work with the child and family to return the child home as soon as possible, or if that is not possible, then to recommend alternative permanent placement to the Juvenile Court.

Important Phone Numbers

Women's Center Hotline	784-6631
Women's Center Office	784-6632
Women's Center Toll-Free Number	1-800-544-8293
Emergency Services (Columbia County)	911
Non-Emergency Services	784-6300
<u>American Red Cross</u>	
Berwick	752-7221
Bloomsburg	784-1395
Danville	275-1441
Shamokin	648-3601
Sunbury	286-4411
<u>Area Agency on Aging</u>	
Columbia & Montour Counties	784-9272
Luzerne County	822-1158
Northumberland County	644-4545
<u>Children & Youth Services</u>	
Childline	1-800-932-0313
Columbia County	389-5700
After 4:30 pm	387-0212
Luzerne County	826-8710
Montour County	271-3050
Northumberland County	988-4237

Children's Health Clinics

Well-Baby Clinic:	
Berwick/Bloomsburg	387-4258
Danville	275-7465

Courthouse

Columbia County	389-5600
Luzerne County	825-1500
Montour County (Commissioner's Office)	271-3000
Northumberland County	988-4167

Daycare

Columbia County- Bloomsburg	784-8618
- Berwick	752-2718
Childcare Connections	1-800-585-7020
	784-0963
Danville Daycare	275-4047
YMCA, Berwick	752-5981

Detox Centers/Drug & Alcohol Counseling

Berwick Recovery Systems	759-5495
CMSU	275-4962
Outpatient Medical Dependency	
Penn State-Geisinger	271-5678
Alcohol Abuse 24-hour Accredited	
Helpline And Treatment	1-800-234-0420
AA-Bloomsburg Contact	387-4940

District Attorneys

Columbia County	389-5656
Luzerne County	825-1674
Montour County	275-5360
Northumberland County	988-4134

District Magistrate (Only Staff may call)

Berwick, Richard Cashman	759-0359
Bloomsburg, Donna Coombe	784-1868
Catawissa, Craig Long	356-2309

Danville, Marvin Schrawder	271-3022
Millville, Ola Stackhouse	458-5501
Milton, William Kear	742-7446

Domestic Relations (press “0” when recording begins)

Columbia County	387-8870
Montour County	271-3031
Northumberland County	988-4414

Headstart

Berwick	759-6400
Bloomsburg	784-8719
Danville	275-5577
Toll-free	1-800-856-7137

Homeless Shelters

People’s Crisis Center (Pat Stanbunas, Need Agency Referral)	648-7666
Haven Ministries (Sunbury, Need Agency Referral)	286-1672
Gatehouse, Danville	275-6766

Hospitals

Berwick	759-5000
Bloomsburg	387-2100
Geisinger	271-6211
Shamokin	644-4222
Sunbury	286-3333

Human Services

Bloomsburg (Susquehanna Legal Services) (Serves Columbia & Montour Counties)	784-8760
Luzerne County Legal Services (Wilkes-Barre)	825-8567
Sunbury (Susquehanna Legal Services)	286-5687

Low-Income Housing

Beaver Place- Danville	275-3640
Evergreen Point-Danville	275-2020
Hillside Village- Catawissa	356-2241

HUD:

Columbia County	784-9373
Luzerne County	287-9661
Montour County	275-3640
Northumberland County	742-8797
Shamokin	644-0431
Sunbury	286-7756
Memorial Acres	286-7756
Raspberry Hill	644-0811
Town Park Village (Bloomsburg)	784-7210 or 759-0315
Wilkes-Barre Housing	825-6657

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health Services at Geisinger	271-6516
Shamokin Mental Health	644-4544
Sunbury Mental Health	988-4200
Tapline (4:00-12:PM only)	1-800-222-9016
CMSU (Bloomsburg)	387-6741
CMSU (Danville)	275-4962
Behavioral Resource Group (Berwick)	759-1764

Miscellaneous Numbers

State Health Center	387-4257
Ambulance	911
Crime Victims Compensation Board	783-5153
Career Link	387-6288

Police Departments

Berwick	752-3677
Bloomsburg	784-4155
Catawissa	356-7102
Coal Township	348-4175
Danville	275-1911
Montour Township	784-7911
Nescopeck	542-4117
Riverside	275-4305
Shamokin	648-5708
Sunbury	286-4584

Pregnancy Options/Birth Control

Berwick Family Health Services	759-2213
Bloomsburg Family Health Services	387-0236
Harrisburg Reproductive Health Service	232-9794
Hillcrest Clinic	234-4994
Shamokin Family Health Services	648-0582
Your Loving Choices	784-3143

Public Welfare

Columbia County	387-4200
Montour County	275-7430
Northumberland County	988-5900

Salvation Army

Bloomsburg (9AM-Noon)	387-4112

State Police Departments

Bloomsburg	387-4261
Milton	742-8761
Shamokin	286-5601
Shickshinny	542-4117

Transportation Services

K Cab	784-1550
Greyhound	389-7997
Transportation to Work Program	784-8807

WIC (Women, Infants and Children

Benton, Berwick, Bloomsburg, Danville	752-6935
Shamokin	648-1521